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Security Council

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Letter dated 25 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the following communications:

- A letter dated 23 October 2001 from Dr. N. C. Dlamini Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, informing of South Africa's intention to deploy security personnel to Burundi in support of the Arusha peace process (see annex);
- A letter dated 22 October 2001 from President Buyoya to President Mbeki, requesting South Africa to make available protection for the political leaders returning from exile (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex and enclosure circulated as documents of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dumisani S. **Kumalo**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 25 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

As you are aware, the Seventeenth Regional Summit on Burundi was held in Pretoria on 11 October 2001. At the Summit, the Facilitator reported that there was agreement between the Government of Burundi and the G7 (seven members of opposition parties) on the legal framework for, and the structure of, the transitional government, the composition of the cabinet, the senate and the transitional national assembly. The Summit participants called for the deployment of an impartial multinational presence within Burundi which will serve as a confidence-building measure in support of the Arusha peace process in general and, in particular, of the imminent inauguration of the interim government in Burundi.

South Africa is one of the countries that were requested to contribute to this multinational presence which will safeguard returning political exiles and assist with the training of an all-Burundian protection unit.

I am attaching a copy of the letter sent by President Pierre Buyoya to President Thabo Mbeki dated 22 October 2001 requesting protection forces to be deployed in Burundi; and we understand that a similar request has been forwarded to the Governments of Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal (see enclosure).

I am therefore pleased to inform you that on 1 November my Government intends to deploy a battalion in Burundi to serve as an interim protection force until an all-Burundian unit has been trained to take over the responsibility. The specific details of the mandate and concept of operations for the protection unit will be communicated separately. We will also keep you updated on our continued efforts to provide assistance to the people of Burundi.

As a result, my Government respectfully requests that the Security Council endorse the deployment of this interim multilateral presence in Burundi.

(*Signed*) Nkosazana **Dlamini Zuma**
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

[Original: French]

During the Seventeenth Summit of Heads of State held in Pretoria on 11 October 2001, it was agreed that your country could assist the Burundian Government in protecting the political leaders returning from exile.

I hereby should like to request you, on behalf of the Government of Burundi to make protection units available to us.

The President of the Republic of Burundi